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Title : Need to amend article 371 to accord special status to North Karnataka region.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister through you Sir, that the Government of Karnataka has submitted a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Home Minister regarding Amendment to Article 371 to accord special status to North Karnataka region comprising GULBARGA, BIDAR, BELLARY, KOPPAL and RAICHUR, similar to the status given to Telengana Region to Andhra Pradesh.

I would like to mention that Government of Karnataka, in reply to Ministry of Home Affairs letter has reiterated its earlier proposal to provide a provision under article 371 for providing regional reservation in the field of employment and education to these North Karnataka Districts.

GULBARGA, BIDAR, BELLARY, KOPPAL and RAICHUR Districts in Karnataka are one of the most backward Districts in Karnataka in terms of infrastructure and industrial development.

In view of the persistent and long standing demand of the people of the Region, I urge the Hon'ble Minister to accord approval for amending article 371 of the Constitution to remove regional imbalances as has been done in the case of Andhra Pradesh.